

Blumenauer: “Republicans are throwing away a small fortune so we can go backwards.”

Washington – Taxpayers will be forced to spend \$50 million more over 10 years under Republican plans to “ungreen” the Capitol, according to recently released [figures](#) from the House of Representatives. While recent media attention has focused on the symbolism of returning toxic, non-biodegradable Styrofoam to the House cafeteria, the true impact of eliminating the energy-saving measures administered by the Green the Capitol office – as the Republican Continuing Resolution does – is much broader.

“The return of Styrofoam to the House cafeteria is just the beginning,” **said Rep. Earl Blumenauer**. “It turns out that Republicans are wasting a small fortune that taxpayers would otherwise save in order to ‘ungreen’ the Capitol. By shutting down this money-saving program before it has been fully implemented, Republicans are imposing a ten-year cost of around \$50 million on taxpayers. This is the definition of government waste, yet it is coming from a Republican majority that cannot stop talking about cutting deficits. It makes no sense, and what it truly reflects is a petty political attack on Leader Pelosi’s environmental programs rather than a true concern about budget deficits. If Republicans really cared about reducing deficits, they would be accelerating – not ending – the Green the Capitol initiatives.”

The cost of eliminating Green the Capitol comes from unrealized savings that result from ending the program before it has been fully implemented, as well as ending Green the Capitol’s engagement with Congressional offices to reduce energy consumption patterns. Money-saving programs threatened by the shutdown of Green the Capitol include:

- Member Office Engagement Program
- Paper recycling and double-sided printing
- Single-stream recycling

- Computer power management
- Water use reduction